

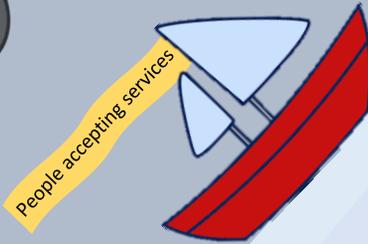
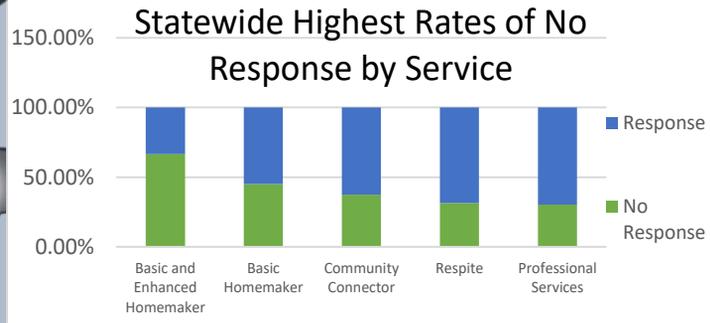
A Perfect Storm for IDD Service Providers

Insufficient Rates, Challenging Economic Realities, and New Regulations Put Unprecedented Pressures on a Strained System

Alliance believes in, and is striving to help create, a community-based system of services for Coloradans with IDD that is **sustainable**, makes **efficient** use of public funds, and is **prepared** to capitalize on the opportunities and weather the challenges of the future.

More than **2,600** people remain on the waiting list for services, and those who have received a Supported Living Services waiver resource struggle to find providers.

Cost of living in the Denver metro has risen **47.5%** since 2001, while IDD reimbursement rates have risen only 14% during the same period.



SUSTAINABILITY

A significant number of people seeking services receive no response to requests for services (commonly referred to as RFPs) and have difficulty finding placements. For example, **49%** of all service requests sent in May & June 2016 failed to result in a service placement 4 months later.



It costs an average of \$20.20 per hour to employ a Direct Service Provider, yet some services rates are as low as \$14.92 and \$19.80 per hour. Providers lose money for every hour of these services they provide.

EFFICIENCY

Those who do find placements wait an average of **47 days** from a request for service to starting a service with their chosen providers. With service plans typically lasting 12 months, this means that, on average, individuals go without needed services for 13% or more of the plan year, if they find a placement at all.

The average turnover rate for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in Colorado is **38%**, with some agencies experiencing upwards of 81% DSP turnover.

Staff turnover costs Colorado's IDD system millions each year and creates disruption in services.



PREPAREDNESS

Amendment 70 will increase the Colorado minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2020, providing much-needed wage increases to Direct Support Professionals, but, at the same time, adding significant costs for providers.

For one Alliance member, meeting new minimum wage requirements will cost \$120,000 in 2017, and **\$705,000** over four years, with no way to increase revenues to cover the costs.



Colorado's IDD system has reached a tipping point. If system funding issues are not addressed, providers will continue to face difficult decisions with compounding negative impacts.



These will include scaling back on services, employee wages, or both, leading to disastrous consequences for the individuals they support.

There's a Way Out: Support a Lifeboat for SLS Services!

To protect services, the General Assembly should allocate funding to implement a rate increase for the services with the most egregious access and sustainability issues in the HCBS-Supported Living Services waiver. These funds should be applied to increase the individual spending/cost limitations, Service Plan Authorization Limits, and the rates associated with each HCBS-SLS service unit.